

In the claims

Please amend claims 1, 2, 8, 10 and 15 as follows:

1. (Amended) A syringe which comprises:
 - a syringe body having a chamber for holding a fluid medication;
 - a needle having a first end and a second end;
 - a needle holder formed with a means for removably attaching said needle to said syringe body to place said second end of said needle in fluid communication with said chamber;
 - a sheath positioned over said needle, said sheath slideably mounted to said needle holder for movement relative thereto between a first configuration wherein said sheath covers said first end of said needle, and a second configuration wherein said sheath retracts over said needle to expose said first end of said needle;
 - a [means for locking] lock mounted on said sheath, said lock having a locking tab to lock said sheath in said first configuration to prohibit relative movement between said sheath and said needle holder;
 - a [means] finger grip for [unlocking] moving said locking tab relative to said sheath to unlock said sheath to allow said sheath to move into said second configuration; and
 - a plunger engageable with said chamber of said syringe body to expel medication from said chamber and through said needle.

2. (Amended) A syringe as recited in claim 1 wherein said [means for unlocking said sheath to allow said sheath to move into said second configuration comprises a finger grip, said] finger grip [being] is slideably mounted on said syringe body to allow said sheath to be unlocked by movement of said finger grip relative to said syringe body.

8. (Amended) A syringe as recited in claim 4 wherein said [means for locking said sheath in said first configuration comprises a] lock is formed with a lock body and [a locking tab,] said locking tab [extending] extends from said lock body to create a hinged connection between said locking tab and said lock body, said lock body being attached to said sheath [and] with said locking tab being for engagement with said spring enclosure to prohibit distal movement of said sheath relative to said needle holder.

10. (Amended) A syringe which comprises:

a syringe body having a chamber for holding a medicament;

a needle having a first end for releasing fluid and a second end for receiving fluid from said chamber;

a sheath slideably mounted on said needle for movement relative thereto, [said sheath having] with a hinged tab extending from said sheath for movement relative to said sheath between a first configuration to prohibit relative movement between said sheath and said needle and a second configuration to allow relative movement between said sheath and said needle;

a finger grip slideably mounted on said syringe body, said finger grip being formed with a tang for biasing said tab into said second configuration to allow relative movement between said sheath and said needle; and

a plunger engageable with said chamber of said syringe body to expel a portion of said medicament from said chamber and through said needle.

15. (Amended) A method for using a syringe comprising the steps of:

providing a syringe body having a chamber holding a fluid medication;

slideably mounting a finger grip formed with a distal end onto said syringe body, said finger grip formed with a tang extending away from said syringe body at said distal end of said finger grip;

providing a needle cartridge having a needle formed with a first end and a second end, a needle holder for holding said needle, a sheath slideably mounted to said needle holder and locked in a position over said first end of said needle by a locking tab extending from said sheath, said locking tab attached to said sheath to create a hinged connection therebetween;

attaching said needle cartridge to said syringe body to place said second end of said needle in fluid communication with said chamber;

rotating said needle cartridge relative to said syringe body to align said tang into a position that is adjacent and distal to said locking tab; and

sliding said finger grip relative to said syringe body to contact said locking tab with said tang and pivot said locking tab relative to said sheath and about said hinge connection to unlock said sheath and allow movement of said sheath relative to said needle.


PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	Hooman A. Asbaghi)	
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Serial No:	09/775,239)	Art Unit
)	3754
Filed:	February 1, 2001)	
)	
For:	SELF-SHEATHING DENTAL NEEDLE)	
)	
Examiner:	P. Derakshani)	
)	
Attorney Docket:	11311.1)	

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee Amendments (Pats), Hon. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 30th day of May, 2002.



DEBRA D. BURNS
Legal Documents Assistant

Transmitted: Response to the Office Action dated April 4, 2002; Attachment – Version with Markings to Show Changes Made to the Specification and Claims; red-lined drawings and copy of revised formal drawings.

oarespdtd4-2-02:ddb
Docket: 11311.1